

## **2007-2008 State Appropriations for IOAPA**

### **Goals**

The \$400,000 State Appropriation funds awarded to the Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development will be used for purposes of increasing student participation in the Advanced Placement program in Iowa high schools. The Belin-Blank Center's Iowa Online Advanced Placement Academy will serve as the vehicle for increasing awareness regarding Advanced Placement (AP). The 2007-08 funds will be used to support specifically designed activities and resources that will accomplish eight overarching goals:

1. Inform all schools in Iowa regarding AP and its benefits for students and teachers.
2. Assist schools in assessing what they need to do in order to initiate or expand AP within their school.
3. Help schools develop plans that indicate how AP aligns with state and federal initiatives.
4. Provide opportunities for students to take AP courses and exams in school or via IOAPA.
5. Provide opportunities for teachers to be trained to effectively deliver AP courses and exam preparation.
6. Provide a one-day conference on AP for education leaders in Iowa.
7. Develop print and electronic AP materials that will serve as resources to Iowa schools.
8. Strengthen the infrastructure of IOAPA so that AP consultation and opportunities will continue well into the future.



October 11, 2007

Dr. Nicholas Colangelo  
Belin-Blank Center  
600 Blank Honors Center  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242-0454

Dear Dr. Colangelo:

I am extremely pleased to share another round of good news concerning Iowa's students and their Advanced Placement results. In 2006-2007, Iowa students had another outstanding year in both AP participation and performance.

Your effective advocacy for AP and the efforts of the Belin-Blank Center's Iowa Online AP Academy have been significant factors in Iowa's success. Access to AP courses continues to increase with 231 (52%) of Iowa's schools offering at least one AP examination in 2007. This maintains Iowa's ranking of 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation in school participation and is the ninth consecutive year that the state has either maintained its position or moved up the list by more than one position.

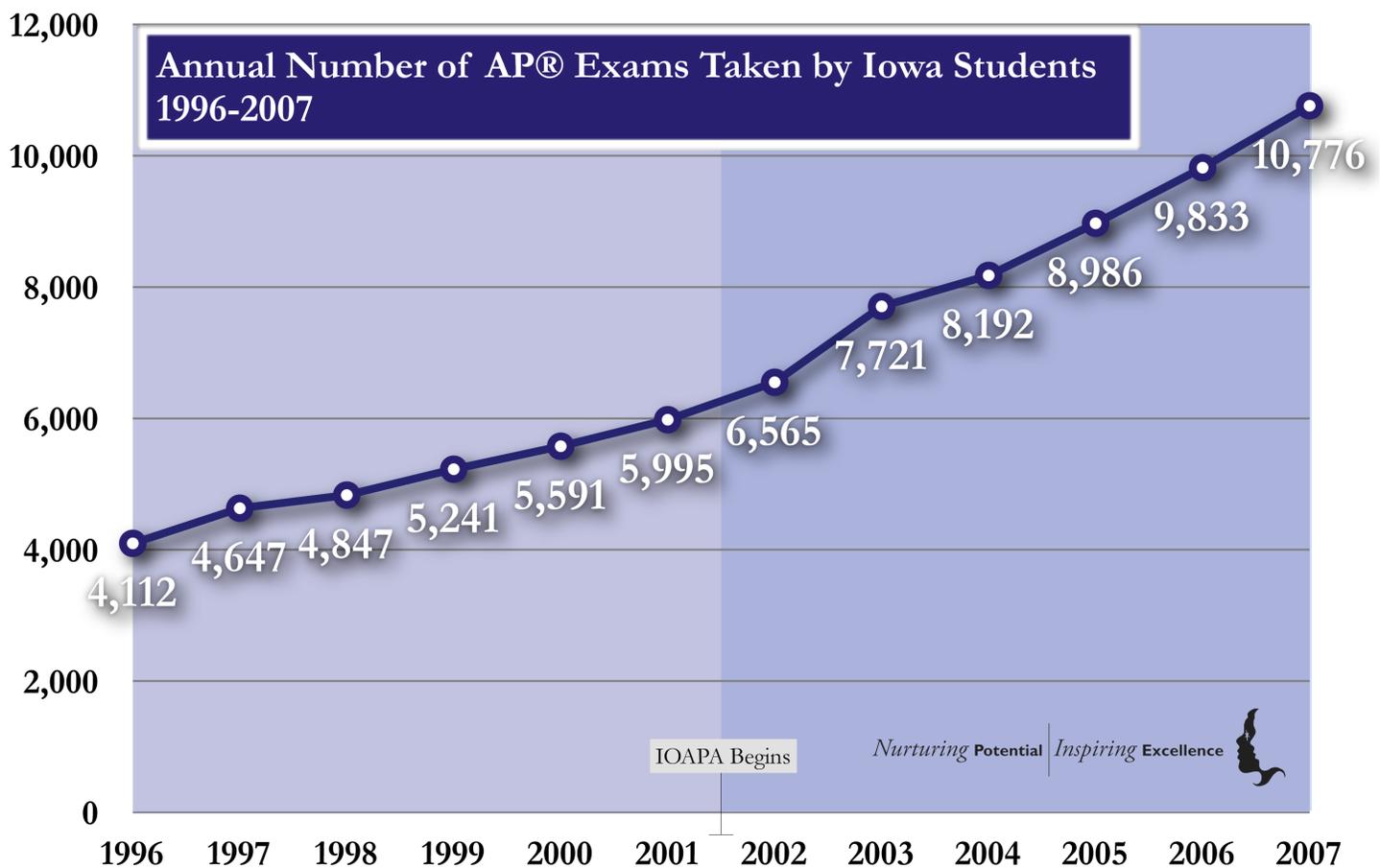
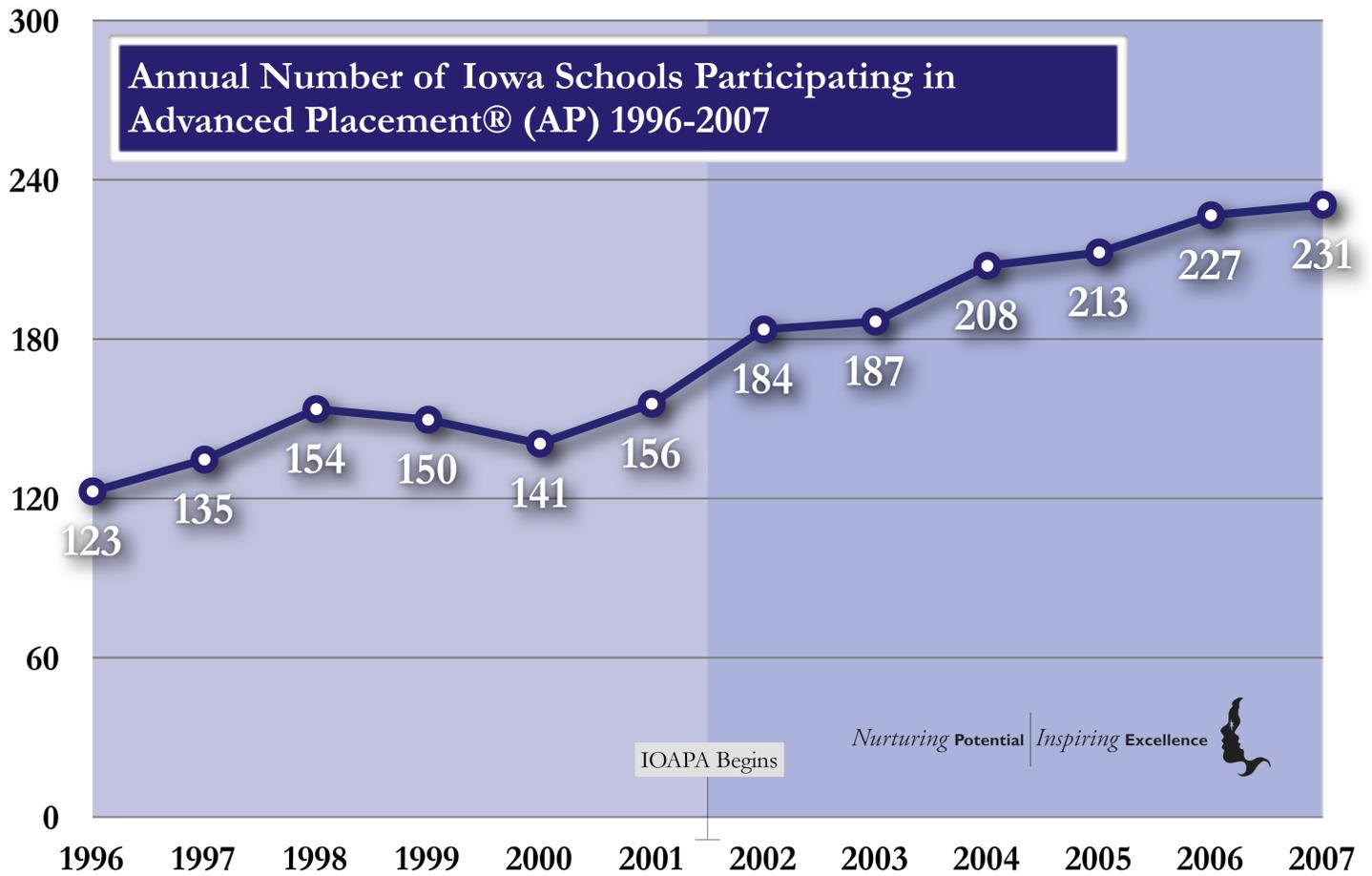
In addition, Iowa's students continue to perform exceptionally well on tests. Although more students are taking AP exams; 7,127 students (+7.9% increase from 2006) took 10,776 exams (+9.6% increase from 2006), their performance continues to be outstanding. **Seventy percent of all exams received scores of 3-5, placing Iowa 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation and well above the national average of 59.4%.**

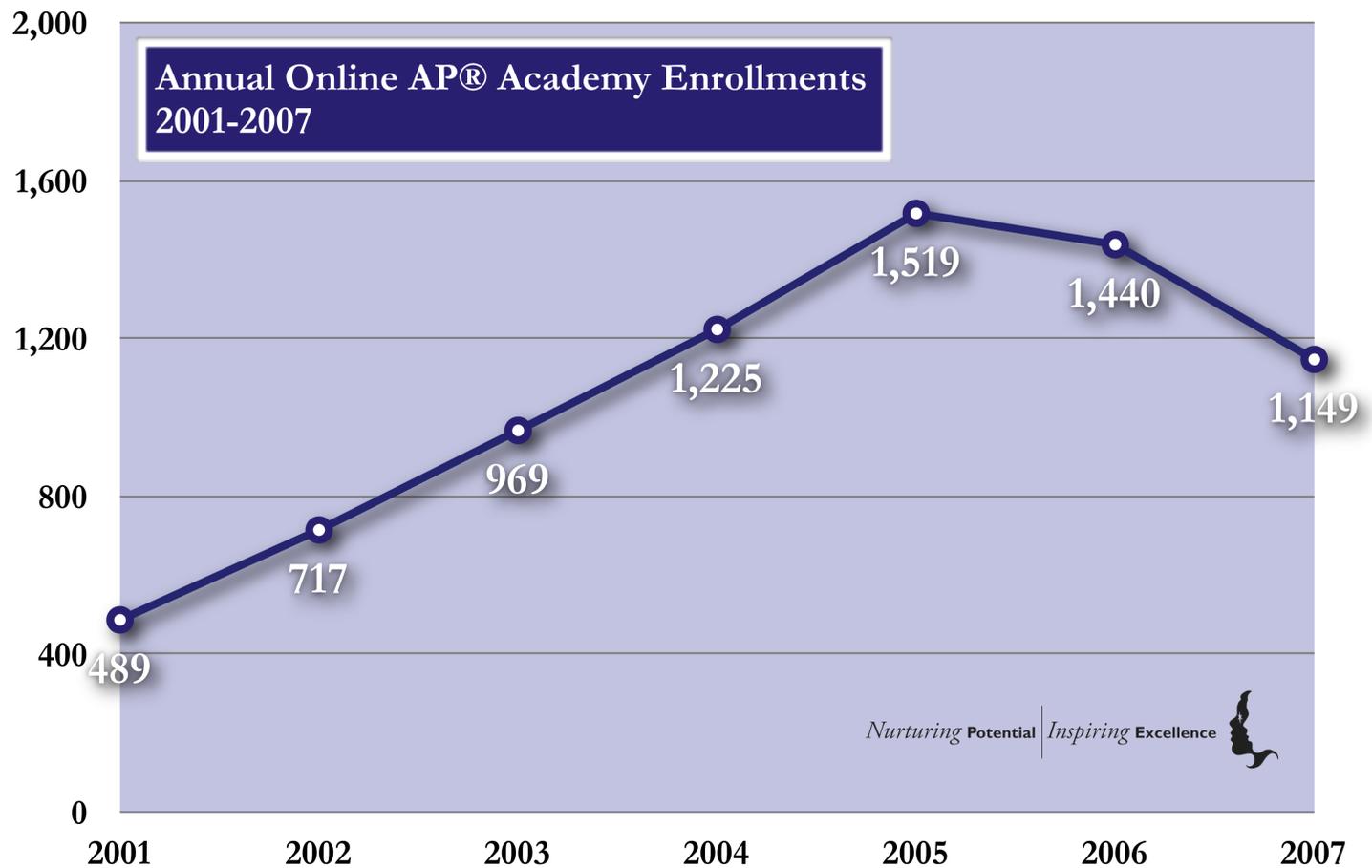
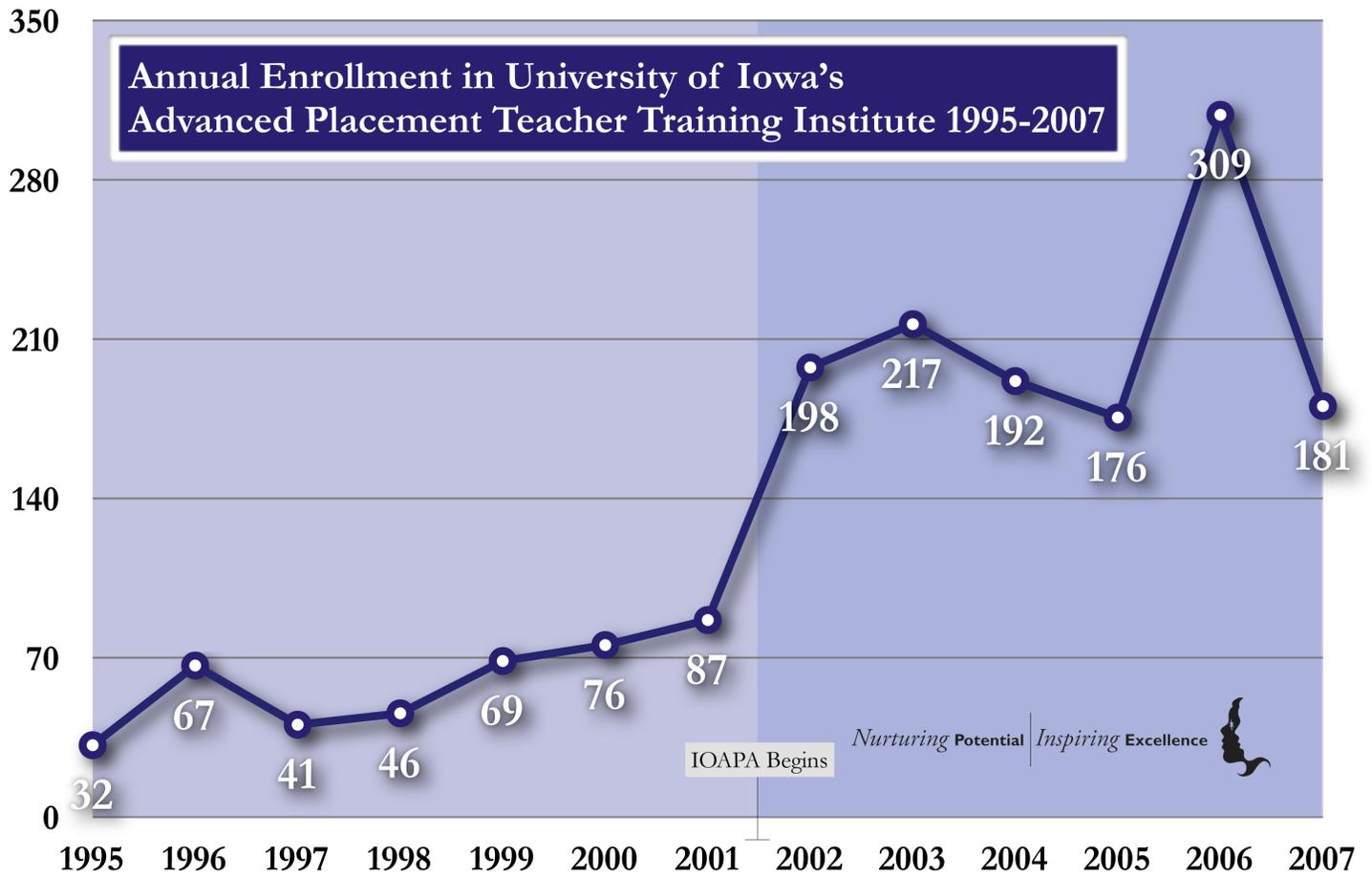
The strong dedication by the Belin-Blank Center for a rigorous academic experience has undoubtedly been a key factor in AP expansion in Iowa. We applaud your firm commitment and its positive impact on schools, districts, teachers, and most importantly, students. Your goal of making AP courses and exams available for all Iowa high school students is becoming a reality.

Sincerely,

John Basich  
K-12 Educational Manager  
The College Board, Midwestern Region

cc.: Trevor Packer, College Board





# State Appropriations Budget - IOAPA

